

The Presidents' Council of Homeowners Associations

Minutes of the October 25th, 2001 meeting, held at Tim Bannister's office

Attendees: Tim Bannister, Bud Bernstein, Dorothy Conrad, Bill Dow, Ken Gorski, Jeff Hockman, Jean Holland, Anne Honhart, Ralph Seger

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Tim Bannister

Guests Denise Grezech (Torry neighborhood) and David Bloom (Stanley St.) were introduced. Denise is working to start a neighborhood association and will be recognized as the Torry area representative.

Operations:

Minutes Minutes were approved as circulated

Treasury Nine of sixteen associations have paid; current balance is \$1105.

Media Coverage The Candidates' Forum was well-run and well-attended. The candidates were reluctant to take any firm positions which differed from the rest of the pack, and the question arose whether the Forum serves any useful purpose. Jeff Hockman pointed out that the Forum will occur with or without the Presidents' Council. The consensus was that our community image is improved by our involvement. Many thanks to Dorothy Conrad, who worked so hard to help set it up.

Old Business:

Business District Liaison Tim reports that www.enjoybirmingham.com is now online as a tool for shoppers and potential retailers to see what is going on in downtown Birmingham. 150 businesses are involved. The Palladium will open on 11/16 with "Harry Potter". Holiday Visions, a snowglobe, will be sold by DB merchants to help support Forgotten Harvest. This will become an annual event. New planters are receiving a lot of positive comment. New tenants are coming in. A program to encourage the use of parking debit cards will get underway this holiday season. Plans are in the works to make Lot 7 an attended lot and to reduce permit parkers in the Pierce lot.

The Adams Square area is going through some difficult times with the loss of Farmer Jack. The merchants declined to be a part of the PSD several years ago and have no unified voice. Unknown whether there is a "no dark" clause in the leases.

Code of Ethics Our draft has been forwarded to the Commission and is in the City Attorney's hands.

Beaumont/Barnum Update The Barnum feasibility study group favors City acquisition of the Barnum site. There is some confusion, especially among elderly voters, between the parks bond and Act 425. Decision made to write op-ed pieces for the Eccentric to help clarify these issues and promote the parks bond. Jeff will write the 425 article and Tim will do the parks bond article.

Fall Commission Elections There have been changes at Baldwin Library which are adversely affecting staff morale. Paul Vandermeer and Ilene Thal should have our support. David Bloom described his neighborhood's ongoing sewer backups (mainly due to Beverly Hills' failure to revamp the Acacia area sewers), and the

Birmingham City Commission's failure to respectfully consider their problem. Commissioners who do not treat citizens' legitimate concerns seriously should be replaced.

Round Table Traffic and traffic calming will be the first topics addressed. Tim will work on getting a date scheduled. Dorothy suggests that we revisit the Community Development office, builders' responsibilities and neighborhood protection in future round tables.

New Business

Bylaws Tim moved that Article 5 be amended so that 5.2 reads: At each annual meeting, there shall be an election by voice vote for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Representatives who have previously served their homeowner associations can be elected as officers to the Presidents' Council. Bud seconded, and the motion passed.

Tim also moved that Article 6 be amended so that 6.2 is added to read: The President shall appoint a standing executive committee to include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and past President. Jean seconded, and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

The November meeting will be on Thursday, November 29th.